

§ 473a. Cotton classification services; fees for costs of services, adjustments, surcharge, discounts, and announcement; sales of samples; disposition of moneys

Effective for each of fiscal years 1992 through 2002, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make cotton classification services available to producers of cotton and shall provide for the collection of classification fees from participating producers, or agents who voluntarily agree to collect and remit the fees on behalf of producers. Such fees, together with the proceeds from the sales of samples submitted under this section, shall cover as nearly as practicable the cost of the services provided under this section, including administrative and supervisory costs: *Provided*, That (1) the uniform per bale classification fee to be collected from producers, or their agents, for the classification service in any year shall be the fee established in the previous year for the prevailing method of classification service, exclusive of adjustments to the fee made in the previous year under clauses (2), (3), and (4), and as may be adjusted by the percentage change in the implicit price deflator for the gross national product as indexed during the most recent 12-month period for which statistics are available; (2) the fee calculated in accordance with clause (1) for a crop year may be increased by an amount not to exceed 1 percent for every 100,000 running bales, or portion thereof, that the Secretary estimates will be classed by the United States Department of Agriculture in the crop year below the level of 12,500,000 running bales, or decreased by a quantity not to exceed 1 percent for every 100,000 running bales, or portion thereof, that the Secretary estimates will be classed by the United States Department of Agriculture in the crop year above the level of 12,500,000 running bales; (3) adjustments made under clause (2) shall not exceed 15 per centum, except when the Secretary estimates that income generated by fees, surcharges, and other sources of income will not provide an ending accumulated operating reserve for a fiscal year of at least 10 per centum of the estimated cost of operating the program; (4) if the Secretary projects an accumulated operating reserve at the end of a fiscal year of less than 25 per centum of the estimated cost of operating the program, the Secretary may add a special surcharge, not to exceed 5 cents per bale, applicable to such fiscal year, to ensure sufficient funds are available; (5) notwithstanding the previous clauses, the Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall not establish a fee which, when combined with all other sources of revenue and adjusted for expenses, would result in a projected operating reserve of more than 25 per centum; (6) the Secretary should continue to recognize that central billing and collection can reduce administrative costs, and offer appropriate discounts where practicable; and (7) the Secretary shall announce the uniform classification fee and any surcharge for the crop not later than June 1 of the year in which the fee applies. Classification services, other than the prevailing method, provided at the request of the producer shall not be subject to the restrictions specified in clauses (1), (2), and (3) of the preceding sen-

tence. All samples of cotton submitted for classification under this section shall become the property of the United States, and shall be sold: *Provided*, That such cotton samples shall not be subject to the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.). Any fees collected under this section and under section 473d of this title, late payment penalties, the proceeds from the sales of samples, and interest earned from the investment of such funds shall be credited to the current appropriation account that incurs the cost of services provided under this section and section 473d of this title and shall remain available without fiscal year limitation to pay the expenses of the Secretary incident to providing such services. Such funds may be invested by the Secretary in insured or fully collateralized, interest-bearing accounts or, at the discretion of the Secretary, by the Secretary of the Treasury in United States Government debt instruments. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section to the extent that financing is not available from fees and the proceeds from the sales of samples.

(Mar. 3, 1927, ch. 337, § 3a, as added Apr. 13, 1937, ch. 75, 50 Stat. 62; amended Pub. L. 97-35, title I, § 156(b), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 373; Pub. L. 98-403, § 1, Aug. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1479; Pub. L. 100-108, § 2, Aug. 20, 1987, 101 Stat. 728; Pub. L. 102-237, title I, § 120(a)-(c), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1842, 1843; Pub. L. 104-127, title IX, § 912(a), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1185.)

AMENDMENT OF SECTION

For termination of amendment by section 120(e) of Pub. L. 102-237, see Effective and Termination Dates of 1991 Amendment note below.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, referred to in text, is act June 30, 1949, ch. 288, 63 Stat. 377, as amended. The provisions of that Act relating to management and disposal of government property are classified to chapter 10 (§ 471 et seq.) of Title 40, Public Buildings, Property, and Works. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 471 of Title 40 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-127 substituted “2002” for “1996” in first sentence.

1991—Pub. L. 102-237, § 120(c), (e), temporarily amended third sentence generally. Prior to amendment, third sentence read as follows: “Special classification services provided at the request of the producer shall not be subject to the restrictions specified in clauses (1), (2), and (3) of the preceding sentence.” See Effective and Termination Dates of 1991 Amendment note below.

Pub. L. 102-237, § 120(b)(2), (e), temporarily added cl. (7) and struck out former cl. (7) which read as follows: “the Secretary shall announce the uniform classification fee and any surcharge for the crop not later than June 1 of the year in which the fee applies, except that for fiscal year 1987, such announcement shall be made as soon as practicable following enactment of this proviso.” See Effective and Termination Dates of 1991 Amendment note below.

Pub. L. 102-237, § 120(b)(1), (e), temporarily added cls. (1) and (2) and struck out former cls. (1) and (2) which read as follows: “(1) the uniform per bale classification fee to be collected from producers, or their agents, for

such classification service in any year shall be the uniform fee collected in the previous year, exclusive of adjustments to such fee made in the previous year under clauses (2), (3), and (4) of this proviso, and as may be adjusted by the percentage change in the Implicit Price Deflator for Gross National Product as indexed during the most recent twelve-month period for which statistics are available; (2) the fee calculated in accordance with clause (1) for a crop year may be increased by an amount not to exceed 1 per centum for every 100,000 running bales, or portion thereof, that the Secretary estimates will be produced in such crop year below the level of 12,500,000 running bales, or decreased by an amount not to exceed 1 per centum for every 100,000 running bales, or portion thereof, that the Secretary estimates will be produced in such crop year above the level of 12,500,000 running bales;". See Effective and Termination Dates of 1991 Amendment note below.

Pub. L. 102-237, §120(a), (e), temporarily amended first sentence generally. Prior to amendment, first sentence read as follows: "Effective for the fiscal years ending September 30, 1987, September 30, 1988, September 30, 1989, September 30, 1990, September 30, 1991, and September 30, 1992, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make cotton classification services available to producers of cotton and shall provide for the collection of classification fees from participating producers, or agents who voluntarily agree to collect and remit the fees on behalf of producers." See Effective and Termination Dates of 1991 Amendment note below.

1987—Pub. L. 100-108 temporarily amended first sentence generally, substituting "September 30, 1987, September 30, 1988, September 30, 1989, September 30, 1990, September 30, 1991, and September 30, 1992" for "September 30, 1985, September 30, 1986, September 30, 1987, and September 30, 1988" and striking out "from" before "agents who voluntarily agree", in second sentence inserted first proviso and struck out former first proviso which read as follows: "That (1) the uniform per bale classification fee to be collected from producers, or their agents, for such classification service in any year shall not exceed the uniform fee collected in the previous year by more than the percentage increase in the Implicit Price Deflator for Gross National Product as indexed during the most recent twelve-month period for which official statistics are available, and (2) the uniform per bale classification fee shall not be increased for any year if the accumulated reserve exceeds 20 per centum of the cost of the classification program in the previous year", and in third sentence substituted "clauses (1), (2), and (3)" for "clauses (1) and (2)". See Effective and Termination Dates of 1987 Amendment note below.

1984—Pub. L. 98-403 substituted provisions effective for fiscal years ending Sept. 30, 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988, requiring the Secretary to make classification service available to producers and to set and collect fees for provisions establishing similar requirements effective for fiscal years ending Sept. 30, 1982, 1983, and 1984.

1981—Pub. L. 97-35 substituted provisions effective for fiscal years ending Sept. 30, 1982, 1983, and 1984, requiring the Secretary to make classification services available to producers, and to set and collect fees, for provisions authorizing the Secretary to determine and make available classification procedures.

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Section 120(e) of Pub. L. 102-237 provided that: "Subsections (a), (b), and (c), and the amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (c) [amending this section], shall be effective for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 13, 1991] and ending on September 30, 1996."

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Section 2 of Pub. L. 100-108 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective for the period beginning Aug. 20, 1987, and ending Sept. 30, 1992.

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 98-403 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective for the period beginning Oct. 1, 1984, and ending Sept. 30, 1988.

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Section 156(b) of Pub. L. 97-35 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective only for the fiscal years ending Sept. 30, 1982, Sept. 30, 1983, and Sept. 30, 1984.

[Provisions of section 156 of Pub. L. 97-35 effective Oct. 1, 1981, see section 156(e) of Pub. L. 97-35, set out as an Effective Date note under section 61a of this title.]

SHORT TITLE

Act Apr. 13, 1937, which enacted sections 473a to 473c of this title, is popularly known as the "Cotton Classification Act".

STUDY ON PROCESSING CERTAIN COTTON GRADES

Section 3 of Pub. L. 100-108, which directed Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of differences between processing efficiency and product quality for Light Spotted and White grade cottons and also conduct a survey and research to determine why an increasing proportion of cotton crop was being classified as Light Spotted, with an initial report describing results of studies to be submitted not later than Oct. 1, 1988, to Committee on Agriculture of House of Representatives and Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of Senate, and a final report to be submitted to such committees as soon as practicable after submission of initial report, was repealed by Pub. L. 102-237, title I, §120(d), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1843.

§ 473b. Market supply, demand, condition and prices; collection and publication of information

The Secretary of Agriculture is also authorized and directed to collect, authenticate, publish, and distribute, by telegraph, radio, mail, or otherwise, timely information on the market supply, demand, location, condition, and market prices for cotton, and to cause to be prepared regularly and distributed for posting at gins, in post offices, or in other public or conspicuous places in cotton-growing communities, information on prices for the various grades and staple lengths of cotton.

(Mar. 3, 1927, ch. 337, §3b, as added Apr. 13, 1937, ch. 75, 50 Stat. 62.)

§ 473c. Rules and regulations

The Secretary of Agriculture is further authorized to make such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

(Mar. 3, 1927, ch. 337, §3c, as added Apr. 13, 1937, ch. 75, 50 Stat. 62.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 473c-1 of this title.

§ 473c-1. Offenses in relation to sampling of cotton for classification

It shall be unlawful—

(a) for any person sampling cotton for classification under this chapter knowingly to sam-